

# **COMMISSION CHANGES PREPARE AGENCY TO ADDRESS BORDER NEEDS**

U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran of the International Boundary and Water Commission has brought a new vision: “Trust, unity, and progress toward enhancing United States-Mexico border conditions and quality of life.” Along with the new vision, Commissioner Duran has implemented a significant restructuring effort to increase effectiveness and responsiveness to critical border needs.

“I see a tremendous opportunity for us to become more effective in meeting the many challenges we face on the border,” said Commissioner Duran. “We now have a team and a structure in place to be successful.”

In his short eight-month tenure as Commissioner, he has already brought about the following improvements:

- Increased technical capability in critical regional areas to advance projects forward. Increased coordination with local, state and federal entities, as well as other border stakeholders. Worked hand-in-hand with the Border Governors in setting a coordination path for effective watershed management. Established first staff position dedicated to developing and enhancing partnerships with local and state government.
- Streamlined the management structure resulting in a Commission that now can be more responsive as employees become more empowered.
- Developed and implemented strategies where he facilitated resolution of longstanding conflicts and litigation, including litigation involving the City of Nogales, Arizona, and leading a path forward to resolve conflicts related to the San Diego-Tijuana sanitation project.
- Expanded agency coordination and communication with the Congressional leadership, state and local governments, and community groups. “The Commission was lacking an effective communication strategy and transparency of its activities,” said Commissioner Duran. “I am proud to say that we are ready to embrace interested parties and provide leadership as the lead federal entity solely focused on the United States-Mexico border region.”
- Enhanced diplomatic efforts with Mexico to bring increased results and resolve international conflicts. By applying diplomatic and technical expertise, the Commission was instrumental in negotiating with Mexico to reduce Mexico’s longstanding water deficit by half. “This year is the first since Mexico incurred a water deficit that the United States has received more than twice the annual water allotment required by treaty,” said Commissioner Duran. The Commission also signed Minute 311 with Mexico to address the treatment of sewage in the San Diego-Tijuana area, reached an agreement on the protocol for water accounting losses in the Rio Grande basin, and established a binational technical committee to address issues relating to the lining of the All-American Canal.

“I am confident that the management strategies I have implemented will increase our ability to address border region needs, making our Commission a premiere federal entity and a model for international cooperation,” Duran stated. “My goal is for the Commission to be a model agency for streamlining government – a spark plug that generates progress and leverages support and resources for the improvement of the United States-Mexico border region.”



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



### **USIBWC Vision Statement**

*Trust, unity, and progress toward enhancing United States-Mexico border conditions and quality of life.*



### **USIBWC Mission Statement**

*Our mission is to provide boundary, water, and environmental solutions along the United States-Mexico border region through leadership, binational cooperation, and future sustainability in a manner that is responsive to stakeholders.*



### **Strategic Goal 1. Boundary Preservation**

Preserve through binational cooperation the international land and river boundary in a manner that resolves environmental and sovereignty issues.

### **Strategic Goal 2. Water Quantity Operations**

Through binational cooperation, carry out conservation projects, flood control operations, determination of national ownership, and use of international waters in a manner that protects lives, property, and natural resources and promotes regional sustainable development.

### **Strategic Goal 3. Water Quality Improvement**

Through binational cooperation, improve border sanitation conditions and enhance the quality and use of international waters in a manner that supports ecological needs and regional sustainable development.

### **Strategic Goal 4. Diplomacy, Outreach, and Partnering**

Establish the USIBWC as the premiere organization for identifying, facilitating, and sharing of resources to resolve transboundary issues.

### **Strategic Goal 5. Strategic Management**

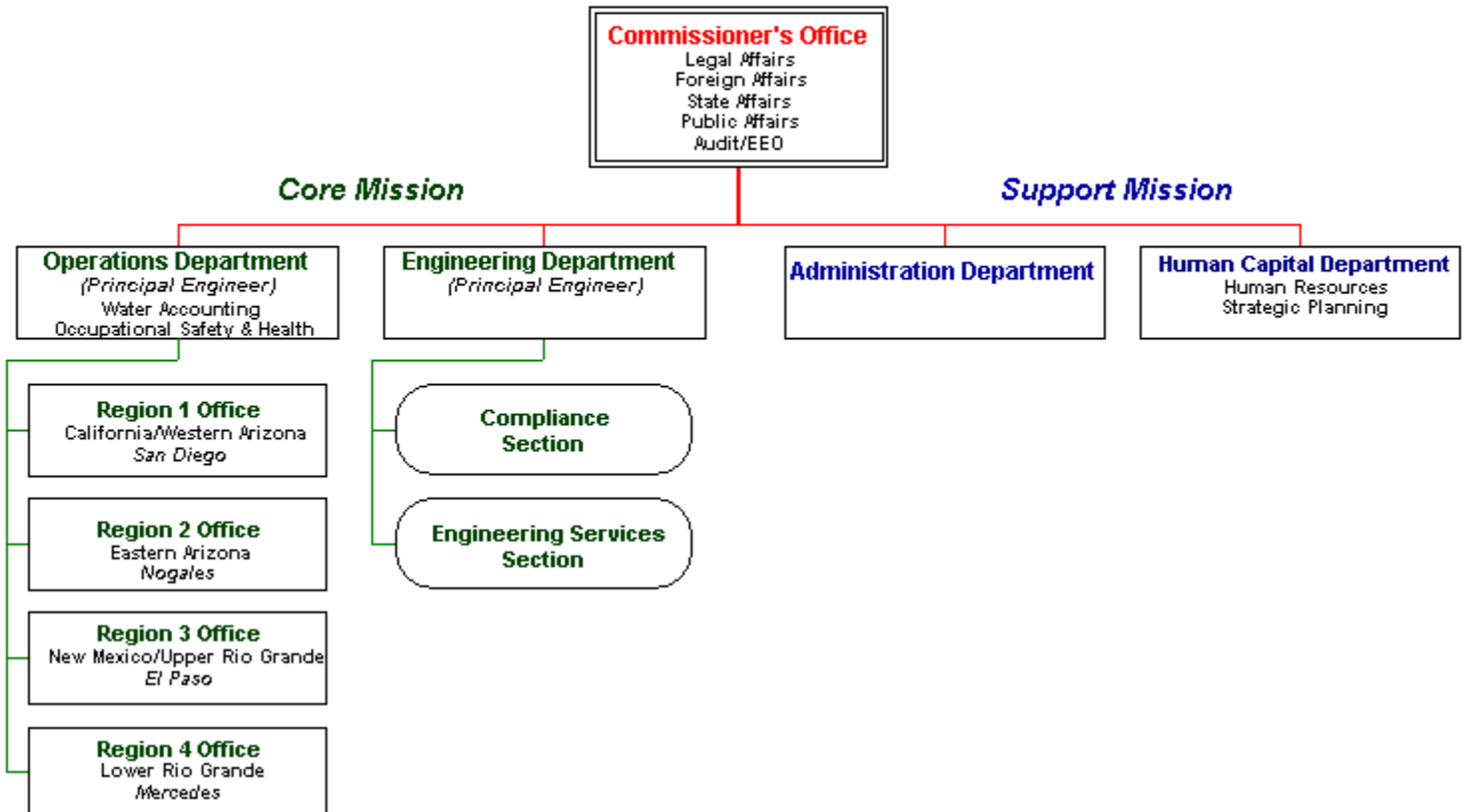
Maximize organizational effectiveness through innovative management of the agency's human, financial, and physical resources to ensure that the USIBWC is stakeholder-centered, accountable, and results oriented.



**TRUST** ★ **UNITY** ★ **PROGRESS**



## USIBWC Organization Chart



### Highlights:

1. The Public Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and State Affairs Offices are recognized for their key stakeholder response functions and thus are elevated as full components of the Commissioner's Office.
2. Unnecessary layers of bureaucracy/supervision are eliminated, thus facilitating empowerment of employees in serving agency stakeholders.
3. The Engineering Department is restructured to include the Engineering and Compliance functions, which will enable a greater focus on environmental compliance and resolution of ongoing litigation.
4. The Operations Department is restructured to include the creation of regional offices that concentrate expertise and resources at the local level, thus reflecting a decentralization of Headquarters functions.